

automatically requesting additional inventory allocation in response to the depletion of the allocation. Thus, a fully automated system may be realized in some embodiments.

Original claim 1 was rejected under §102 over the reference to Shipp. Clearly Shipp does not receive an electronic indication of an inventory allocation. Nor does Shipp complete a plurality of on-line sales transactions against that allocation. Moreover, Shipp does not automatically request additional inventory in response to the depletion of the allocation.

In Shipp, it appears that the maintenance facility actually receives the kits. There is no indication that it receives an electronic indication of an inventory allocation and then completes on-line sales against that allocation.

Similarly, claim 1 was also rejected under Salvo. However, Salvo does not teach providing an electronic indication of the inventory allocation.

Therefore, claims 1-9 are in condition for allowance. For the same reason claims 10-18 should likewise be allowable.

Claim 19 calls for a server that completes a plurality on on-line transactions. A memory is coupled with a server that stores an inventory allocation. The server decrements the inventory allocation with each transaction, monitors the inventory allocation and automatically requests an additional inventory allocation. Claim 19 was only rejected over the Salvo reference under §102. Again, it is respectfully submitted that there is no memory that stores an inventory allocation and the server does not decrement the inventory allocation with each transaction, monitor the inventory allocation or automatically request an additional inventory allocation. Therefore, claim 19

and the claims dependent thereon, claims 20-22, should be in condition for allowance.

Various objections were made to claims 19 and 29 based on the use of a server and a memory. A server is a type of computer system that includes a processor and works with a memory. For example, the Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary, Third Edition, defines a server as a computer running administrative software that controls access to a network and its resources and provides resources to computers functioning as workstations on the network. The server is shown for example in Figure 1, item 12 and its associated storage 13 may also be called a memory. For example, at page 4, lines 10 and 11, it is stated that the on line transaction service 12 may include a server. It is well understood by those skilled in the art that the storage 13 may also be called a memory.

Thus, the objection to the drawings and the objections to claims 19 and 29 should be reconsidered.

Claim 23 has been amended to call for providing an electronic indication of an inventory allocation. Again, Salvo teaches no such feature. For example, as explained in the summary, the system comprises a storage receptacle that stores inventory in an amount indicator that determines the inventory amount in each receptacle. Clearly, the system is not an electronic inventory allocation. Again, the concept of providing an electronic indication of an inventory allocation is nowhere suggested in the cited references. Therefore, claim 23 and the claims dependent thereon as well as claim 26 and the claims dependent thereon should be in condition for allowance.

Claim 29 calls for a server and a storage storing software that causes the server to provide a dedicated inventory allocation. Again, so such feature is suggested in the cited

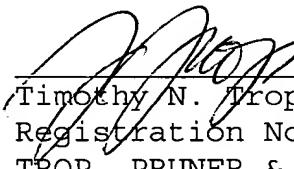
references. Therefore, claim 29 and 30 should be in condition for allowance.

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In view of these remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (ITL.0365US).

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method comprising:
receiving an electronic indication of an [a dedicated] inventory allocation;
completing a plurality of on-line sales transactions against said allocation; and
in response to the depletion of said allocation,
automatically requesting additional [dedicated] inventory allocation.

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein receiving an electronic indication of an [a dedicated] inventory allocation includes receiving said allocation over a network.

Please amend claim 5 as follows:

5. (Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein receiving an electronic indication of an [a dedicated] inventory allocation includes receiving said allocation over the Internet.

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

6. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein requesting an electronic indication of [additional dedicated] inventory allocation includes determining whether the inventory allocation needs to be replenished.

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

7. (Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein determining whether the inventory allocation needs to be replenished includes determining whether an inventory [the existing]

allocation has been reduced through the completion of on-line transactions below a preset level.

Please amend claim 8 as follows:

8. (Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein determining whether the inventory allocation needs to be replenished includes determining [implementing a dynamic calculation that considers] the rate at which on-line transactions are being completed and implementing a dynamic calculation that considers the rate at which on-line transactions are being completed.

Please amend claim 10 as follows:

10. (Amended) An article comprising a medium for storing instructions that enable a computer [cause a processor-based system] to:

receive an electronic indication of an [a dedicated] inventory allocation;

complete a plurality of on-line sales transactions against said allocation; and

in response to the depletion of said allocation, automatically request additional dedicated inventory allocation.

Please amend claim 11 as follows:

11. (Amended) The article of claim 10 further storing instructions that enable a computer [cause a processor-based system] to maintain a count of available inventory allocation and decrement said count as each on-line transaction occurs.

Please amend claim 12 as follows:

12. (Amended) The article of claim 10 further storing instructions that enable a computer [cause a processor-based system] to receive an inventory allocation from a remote site.

Please amend claim 13 as follows:

13. (Amended) The article of claim 10 further storing instructions that enable a computer [cause a processor-based system] to receive said allocation over a network.

Please amend claim 14 as follows:

14. (Amended) The article of claim 13 further storing instructions that enable a computer [cause a processor-based system] to receive said allocation over the Internet.

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

15. (Amended) The article of claim 10 further storing instructions that enable a computer [cause a processor-based system] to determine whether to request an additional [the] inventory allocation based on the number of on-line sales transactions completed against said allocation [needs to be replenished].

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

16. (Amended) The article of claim 15 further storing instructions that enable a computer [cause a processor-based system] to determine whether the existing allocation has been reduced below a preset level.

Please amend claim 17 as follows:

17. (Amended) The article of claim 15 further storing instructions that enable a computer [cause a processor-based system] to implement a dynamic calculation that considers the rate at which on-line transactions are being completed.

Please amend claim 18 as follows:

18. (Amended) The article of claim 17 further storing instructions that enable a computer [cause a processor-based system] to utilize the rate at which transactions are completed and the rate at which additional inventory is to be requested to determine whether the inventory allocation needs to be replenished.

Please amend claim 23 as follows:

23. (Amended) A method comprising:

providing an electronic allocation of an [a dedicated] inventory allocation;
receiving a request for an additional [dedicated] inventory allocation; [and]
providing an additional [dedicated] inventory allocation.

Please amend claim 25 as follows:

25. (Amended) A method of claim 23 including providing the indication of an [said] inventory allocation over the Internet.

Please amend claim 26 as follows:

26. (Amended) An article [for] comprising a medium that stores instructions that enable a computer [cause a processor-based system] to:

provide an electronic indication of an [a dedicated] inventory allocation;
receive a request for additional [dedicated] inventory allocation; and
provide additional [dedicated] inventory allocation in response to said request.

Please amend claim 27 as follows:

27. (Amended) The article of claim 26 further storing instructions that enable a computer [cause a processor-based system] to provide a frequency for requests for additional allocation.

Please amend claim 28 as follows:

28. (Amended) The article of claim 26 further storing instructions that enable a computer [cause a processor-based system] to provide said inventory allocation over the Internet.